(b) It is too early to assess the full potentiality of the basin.

Pending applications for LPG

658. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of applications are pending for the supply of LPG in Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Surat, Rajkot and other cities of Gujarat;

(b) if so, how many applications have been registered for LPG gas in the above cities uptill now;

(c) how many applicants have so far been supplied LPG and how many are still pending; and

(d) by when all the applications for the supply of LPG are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Functioning of ONGC

659. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a proposal under Government's consideration to decentralise the functioning of ONGC;

(b) whether there was also a proposal under Government's consideration to set up the offices of the ONGC in Assam and Gujarat headed by senior officers; and

(c) if so, what decision Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) With a view to decentralise the functions of ONGC, the Commission has been reorganised into six regional business centres including one in Gujarat with headquarters at Baroda and another in Assam with headquarters at Nazira.

Laying of HBJ pipeline

660. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the experts committee headed by Shri P. C. Bhasin had warned that it is dangerous to lay H.B.J. Pipeline on the highly vulnerable Thane Creek bridge; and

(b) if so, what were the reasons to overlook the report of the above committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) The HBJ Pipeline does not cross the Thane creek bridge.

(b) Does not arise.

Oil struck in on shore in Orissa

661. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether work has begun on shore in Orissa to find out oil;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the names of other shores where such on shore work has started during 1986 or is likely to start in 1987?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Seismic surveys measuring about 3,800 std. line kms., have been carried out. A programme to drill 8 exploratory wells at a cost of Rs. 12.20 crores has been approved. The drilling has started in February, 87.

(c) The areas are:

Assam; Gujarat; Rajasthan; Tripura; West Bengal; Andhra; Himachal Pradesh Bihar; Orissa; Arunachal Pradesh; Tamil Nadu; Mizoram anad Nagaland.

Demand of petrol and petroleum products During 1986-87

662. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the demand of petrol and petoleum products in the country during the year 1986-87;

(b) what was the estimated production of petrol and petroleum products in the country during the same period; and

(c) the steps taken to meet the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) The estimated demand for petroleum (MS) and other petroleum products and their indigenous availbility during 1986-87 are as under:—

(*Million tonnes*)

	Demand	Indigenous availability
Petrol (MS)	2.50	2.55
Other petroleum products	41.10	40.41

(c) The shortage is being met by imports.

Increasing the production of Petroleum products during 1987-88

663. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quantum of import of crude and petroleum products is likely to increase in 1987-88 as compared to the year 1986-87;

(b) to what extent the demand is likely to be met by indigenous production and by imports of crude oil and what is the amount of foreign exchange required for these imports during 1987-88; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken by Government to increase indigenous production to minimise the import bill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) The crude import Plan for 1987-88 has not yet been finalised and therefore it is not possible to indicate at this stage the size of the import bill during the year.

(c) Some of the steps taken to increase the production of crude oil in the country include intensification of exploration, use of enhanced recovery techniques and induction of advanced technology.

Exploring Hydrocarbons in the Konkan-Kerala off shore

664. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) has proposed to